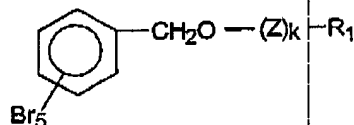


—2—

1. (Currently Amended) A pentabromobenzyl alkyl ether of the formula:



wherein:

- Z represents the group  $-(\text{Y}-\text{O})_n-$ , wherein Y is a linear or branched  $-(\text{C}_2-\text{C}_8)\text{alkylene}-$ ;
- n represents an integer from 2 to 4;
- k may be 0 or 1;
- $\text{R}_1$  represents hydrogen, a linear or branched  $-(\text{C}_1-\text{C}_{10})\text{alkyl}$ , ~~a linear or branched  $-(\text{C}_2-\text{C}_{10})\text{alkylene}-\text{OH}$ , allyl,~~ or 1,2-dibromopropyl; provided that when k is zero  $\text{R}_1$  represents a linear or branched  $-(\text{C}_4-\text{C}_{10})\text{alkyl}$ , and when k is 1  $\text{R}_1$  represents hydrogen, a linear or branched  $-(\text{C}_1-\text{C}_4)\text{alkyl}$ , allyl or 1,2-dibromopropyl.

2. (Original) A pentabromobenzyl alkyl ether according to claim 1, wherein Z represents a group selected from  $-(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_n$  and  $-(\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_n$ , wherein n represents 2.

3. (Original) A pentabromobenzyl alkyl ether according to claim 1, wherein  $k=1$  and  $\text{R}_1$  represents H, methyl or butyl.

4. (Currently Amended) A pentabromobenzyl alkyl ether according to claim 1, wherein  $k=0$  and  $\text{R}_1$  represents branched  $(\text{C}_8)\text{alkyl}$  ~~or linear  $(\text{C}_6)\text{alkylene}-\text{OH}$ .~~

—3—

5. (Currently Amended) A pentabromobenzyl alkyl ether according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

pentabromobenzyl-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>;

pentabromobenzyl-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>H;

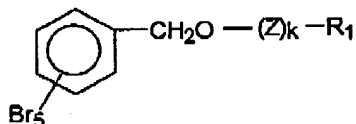
pentabromobenzyl-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>6</sub>OH;

pentabromobenzyl-O-CH<sub>2</sub>CH(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>;

pentabromobenzyl-O-(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>, and

pentabromobenzyl-O-(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>-H

6. (Currently Amended) A fire retardant of the formula:



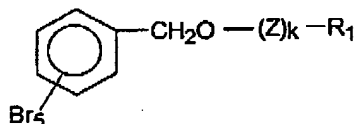
wherein:

- Z represents the group -(Y-O)<sub>n</sub>-, wherein Y is a linear or branched -(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)alkylene-;
- n represents an integer from 2 to 4;
- k may be 0 or 1;
- R<sub>1</sub> represents hydrogen, a linear or branched -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)alkyl, ~~a linear or branched -(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>16</sub>)alkylene-OH, allyl,~~ or 1,2-dibromopropyl; provided that when k is zero R<sub>1</sub> represents a linear or branched -(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)alkyl, ~~or a linear or branched -(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)alkylene-OH~~ and when k is 1, R<sub>1</sub> represents hydrogen, a linear or branched -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, allyl or 1,2-dibromopropyl.

7. (Canceled)

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8. (Previously Presented) A fire retarded polymeric or polymer-containing composition comprising a pentabromobenzyl alkyl ether of the formula:



wherein:

- Z represents the group  $-(\text{Y}-\text{O})_n-$ , wherein Y is a linear or branched  $-(\text{C}_2-\text{C}_8)$  alkylene-;
- n represents an integer from 2 to 4;
- k may be 0 or 1;
- $\text{R}_1$  represents hydrogen, a linear or branched  $-(\text{C}_1-\text{C}_{10})$  alkyl, a linear or branched  $-(\text{C}_2-\text{C}_{10})$  alkylene-OH, allyl, or 1,2-dibromopropyl; provided that when k is zero  $\text{R}_1$  represents a linear or branched  $-(\text{C}_4-\text{C}_{10})$  alkyl or a linear or branched  $-(\text{C}_2-\text{C}_{10})$  alkylene-OH and when k is 1,  $\text{R}_1$  represents hydrogen, a linear or branched  $-(\text{C}_1-\text{C}_4)$  alkyl, allyl or 1,2-dibromopropyl.

9. (Original) A fire retarded composition according to claim 8, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of chlorinated polyethylene, polyethylene, polypropylene, styrene resins, high-impact polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymer, flexible and rigid polyurethane, epoxy resins and unsaturated polyester resins.

10. (Original) A fire retarded composition according to claim 9, wherein said polymer is polypropylene.

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11. (Original) A fire retarded composition according to claim 9, wherein said polymer is high impact polystyrene (HIPS).

12. (Original) A fire retarded composition according to claim 9, wherein said polymer is acryl-butadiene-styrene terpolymer (ABS).

13. (Original) A fire retarded composition according to claim 9, wherein said polymer is polyurethane.

14. (Currently Amended) A fire retarded composition according to claim 8, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polypropylene copolymer, high impact polystyrene (HIPS) and acryl-butadiene-styrene terpolymer (ABS), and said pentabromobenzyl alkyl ether is selected from the group consisting of:

pentabromobenzyl-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>;

pentabromobenzyl-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>H;

pentabromobenzyl-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>6</sub>OH;

pentabromobenzyl-O-CH<sub>2</sub>CH(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>;

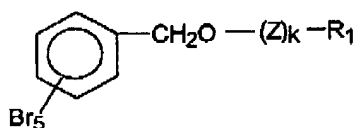
pentabromobenzyl-O-(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>-OCH<sub>3</sub>, and

pentabromobenzyl-O-(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>-H

15. (Previously Presented) A fire retarded composition according claim 8, further comprising a metal oxide, preferably Sb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

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16. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a pentabromobenzyl alkyl ether of the formula:



wherein:

- Z represents the group  $-(\text{Y}-\text{O})_n-$ , wherein Y is a linear or branched  $-(\text{C}_2-\text{C}_8)$  alkylene-;
- n represents an integer from 2 to 4;
- k may be 0 or 1;
- $\text{R}_1$  represents hydrogen, a linear or branched  $-(\text{C}_1-\text{C}_{10})$  alkyl, allyl, or 1,2-dibromopropyl; provided that when k is zero  $\text{R}_1$  represents a linear or branched  $-(\text{C}_4-\text{C}_{10})$  alkyl or a linear or branched  $-(\text{C}_2-\text{C}_{10})$  alkylene-OH, and when k is 1  $\text{R}_1$  represents hydrogen, a linear or branched  $-(\text{C}_1-\text{C}_4)$  alkyl, allyl or 1,2-dibromopropyl, comprising  
 reacting a glycol, a mono-, or di-alcohol of the formula  $\text{HO}-(\text{Z})_k-\text{R}_1$ , or the corresponding metal alcoholate thereof, with a pentabromobenzyl halide.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

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20. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 16, wherein the pentabromobenzyl halide is pentabromobenzyl bromide.
21. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 16, wherein the reaction occurs in the presence of a base.
22. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 16, wherein the linear or branched  $-(C_2-C_8)\text{alkylene}-$  is selected from the group consisting of  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$  and  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-$ .
23. (Previously Presented) A fire retarded polymeric or polymer-containing composition of claim 8, wherein the linear or branched  $-(C_2-C_8)\text{alkylene}-$  is selected from the group consisting of  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$  and  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-$ .
24. (Previously Presented) A pentabromobenzyl alkyl ether according to claim 1, wherein the linear or branched  $-(C_2-C_8)\text{alkylene}-$  is selected from the group consisting of  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$  and  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-$ .